

Rights of Crime Victims

- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of any public court proceeding, or any parole proceeding, involving the crime or of any release or escape of the accused.
- The right not to be excluded from any such public court proceeding, unless the court, after receiving clear and convincing evidence, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
- The right to be reasonably heard at any public proceeding in the district court involving release, plea, sentencing, or any parole proceeding.
- The reasonable right to confer with the attorney for the Government in the case.
- The right to full and timely restitution as provided in law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.

You have the right to retain legal counsel to protect the aforementioned rights.

For More Information

Contact one of our offices between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday except federal holidays.

If you know someone who is being harassed or intimidated because of their status as a witness or victim of a crime please contact the U.S. Attorney's Office immediately.

PHOENIX OFFICE

Two Renaissance Square
40 N. Central Avenue, Suite 1200
Phoenix, AZ 85004-4408

(800) 800-2570
(602) 514-7500

TUCSON OFFICE

Evo A. DeConcini Courthouse
405 West Congress, Suite 4800
Tucson, AZ 85701-5040

(888) 565-0631
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U.S. Department of Justice

Victim Advocacy & Witness Support



**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

**Victim Witness Program
Phoenix & Tucson**

Who We Are

The U.S. Attorneys' Offices within the U.S. Department of Justice established the Victim/Witness program in 1984. The Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 was enacted "to enhance and protect the necessary role of crime victims and witnesses in the criminal justice process; to ensure that the Federal government does all that is possible within limits of available resources to assist victims and witnesses of crime without infringing on the constitutional rights of defendants; and, to provide a model for legislation for State and local governments."

All victims and witnesses of Federal crime are entitled to receive assistance and protection. This assistance is available for those who have suffered physical, financial, or emotional traumas, or who have been threatened or intimidated. Special attention will be paid to victims of serious, violent crime.

Authority

Victim and Witness Protection Act 1982 (PL: 97-291 October 12, 1982); Crime Control Act of 1990 and 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act.

What We Provide

- Information and referral to medical and/or social services agencies, to the County Victim Compensation program and to local, private, and public counseling services.
- Supportive contact and consultation such as court orientation and escort; arrangements for hotel, travel, and other fees; employer, credit, and victim compensation intervention.
- Information regarding charges filed against the offender; arrest, detention, or release of the defendant; status of the case which includes all court actions, schedule, negotiated pleas, trial, sentencing date, and sentence imposed.
- Consultation with victims and witnesses regarding the opportunity to provide pre-trial victim impact statements containing information on any trauma and loss suffered.
- Preparation for victims and witnesses on how to present verbal statements to the court at sentencing.
- Communication on behalf of victims and witnesses with agencies such as Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Tribal investigators, U.S. Probation, Bureau of Prisons

and other public agencies involved in the case.

- Advice to victims regarding necessary documentation needed to establish amount of restitution for financial losses. An important aspect in repairing the damage done to victims is reimbursement for financial loss caused by the defendant. The defendant may be ordered to pay for lost income, funeral expenses, counseling, lost or damaged property, and other expenses incurred because of the crime committed by the defendant.
- Participation with the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a Victim Impact Statement. This may include an interview with the victim so that the pre-sentence writer has firsthand knowledge of the impact of the crime on the victim and/or the community. This interview assists the pre-sentence writer with recommendations for specific conditions of release and/or restitution.
- Immediate emergency assistance to threatened witnesses to guarantee their well-being and availability for trial, other court proceedings, or activities related to an ongoing case. The Emergency Witness Assistance Program is usually requested by the Assistant U.S. Attorney on the case.